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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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3 A process for upgrading a Fischer–Tropsch feedstock which comprises
4 (a) recovering from a Fischer–Tropsch reactor a Fischer–Tropsch wax fraction
5 and a Fischer–Tropsch condensate fraction, wherein the Fischer–Tropsch
6 condensate fraction contains alcohols boiling below about 370°C; (b) contacting
7 the Fischer–Tropsch condensate fraction with a dehydration catalyst in a
8 dehydration zone under dehydration conditions pre-selected to convert at least
9 some of the alcohols present in said fraction into olefins and recovering a first
10 intermediate effluent from said dehydration zone; (c) pyrolyzing the paraffins in
11 the Fischer–Tropsch wax fraction in a thermal cracking zone under thermal
12 cracking conditions pre-selected to crack the Fischer–Tropsch wax molecules
13 to form olefins and collecting a second intermediate effluent from the thermal
14 cracking zone; (d) passing the first and second intermediate effluents
15 recovered from steps (b) and (c) to an oligomerization zone containing an
16 oligomerization catalyst under oligomerization conditions to form an
17 oligomerization mixture having a higher molecular weight than either of said
18 first and second intermediate effluent; (e) hydrofinishing the oligomerization
19 mixture in a hydrofinishing zone; and (f) recovering from the hydrofinishing
20 zone a C₁₀ plus hydrocarbon product, most preferably a lubricating base oil.